

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EB-07

COME-00 SEC-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /059 W

----- 077301

O 101804Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9698

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF INVESTIGATING COMMISSION

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1372

1. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD AN AFTERNOON SESSION WITH CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ ON APRIL 9 TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION ARISING OUT OF UNITED BRANDS BRIBERY STORY. LOPEZ AND THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO SET UP A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES. THE COMMISSION WAS ALLOTTED \$50,000 TO CONDUCT THE INVESTIGATION BOTH IN HONDURAS AND ABROAD. ALL THE PERSONS NAMED TO THE COMMISSION HAVE ACCEPTED AND REPORTEDLY WILL MEET TODAY, APRIL 10, TO WORK OUT A PLAN OF ACTION. THE COMMISSION IS COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

(A) MONSIGNOR HECTOR ENRIQUE SANTOS, ARCHBISHOP

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OF TEGUCIGALPA;

(B) SERAPIO HERNANDEZ CASTELLANOS, ATTORNEY  
GENERAL OF HONDURAS;  
(C) JORGE ARTURO REINA, RECTOR OF THE NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY;  
(D) CAMILO RIVERA GIRON, PRESIDENT OF THE HONDURAN  
COUNCIL OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE;  
(E) ANDRES VICTOR ARTILES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
CONFEDERATION OF HONDURAN WORKERS;  
(F) LT. COL. CESAR ELVIR SIERRA, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED  
FORCES; AND  
(G) ARMANDO AGUILUZ VALLE, ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE  
SUPREME COURT.

2. COMMENT: THE NOMINATION OF THIS INVESTIGATING COMMISSION  
IS NO GUARANTEE OF QUICK OR DECISIVE ACTION. CERTAINLY THE  
HETEROGENEOUS COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP, REFLECTING A VARIETY  
OF INTERESTS, WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE COMMISSION TO  
AGREE UPON AN OBJECTIVE DECISION UNDER THE BEST OF CONDITIONS,  
ALTHOUGH MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON INCONTROVERTIBILITY AND  
COMPLETENESS OF THE EVIDENCE IT IS ABLE TO AMASS. UNDER THE  
CIRCUMSTANCES, LOPEZ OBVIOUSLY REALIZED THAT A FLAT DENIAL  
OF THE CHARGES WITHOUT SUPPORTING EVIDENCE WOULD BE  
UNSATISFACTORY TO THE "LT. COLONEL'S GROUP" AND THE GENERAL  
PUBLIC. A FINDING BY THE COMMISSION THAT HE IS INNOCENT  
OF THE CHARGE WOULD GIVE HIM A CLAIM TO REMAIN AS CHIEF  
OF STATE, EVEN THOUGH MUCH OF HIS AUTHORITY INCLUDING  
BEING CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES WAS SHORN FROM HIM IN  
LAS WEEK'S MILITARY REORGANIZATION. IN SUCH A CASE IT  
IS POSSIBLE THAT ONE OR MORE MINISTERS MIGHT BE MADE  
SCAPEGOATS. AN INCONCLUSIVE OR DIVIDED FINDING WOULD  
FURTHER WEAKEN HIM, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE HE WOULD BE PERMITTED  
TO REMAIN IN OFFICE FOR A "DECENT PERIOD" BEFORE RESIGNING.  
A FINDING THAT HE IS GUILTY OF THE CHARGES PROBABLY WOULD  
LEAD TO HIS IMMEDIATE OUSTER  
SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIBERY, BANANAS, INVESTIGATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TEGUCI01386  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750125-0474  
**From:** TEGUCIGALPA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750461/aaaaceag.tel  
**Line Count:** 96  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 TEGUCIGALPA 1372  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ESTABLISHMENT OF INVESTIGATING COMMISSION  
**TAGS:** PINT, HO, UNITED BRANDS, (LOPEZ ARELLANO, OSWALDO), (AGUILUZ VALLE, ARMANDO), (ENRIQUE SANTOS, MONSIGNOR HECTOR), (HERNANDEZ CASTELLANOS, SERAPIO), (RI VERA GIRON, CAMILO), (VICOTR ARTILES, ANDRES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006